

the SPR, which is crude oil transported to a refinery in enough time to relieve the crisis of the high price in the Northeast. The problem is, the reserves of heating oil are down. I have discussed the rationale of why the reserves are low, but the fact is they are low. So as a consequence, we are left with a situation where price follows supply and demand, and we are certainly feeling the price. I think we should converse with our Secretary of Energy, who is attempting to interject with the Saudis, Venezuelans, Norwegians, and other oil-producing countries to try to encourage them to, if you will, increase their OPEC volume, which they have been remarkably solid in their ability to hold together and not do that.

They operate under two theories. One is they would like to have the highest possible price and produce the least amount of oil. But if that cartel cracks, then they still have to have the same volume of dollars to benefit their government, so they will produce more oil to get it. What we have seen as a consequence is the cartel coming together and holding tough. Subject to the ability of the Secretary of Energy to convince them to do otherwise, I would not look for immediate relief from that area. I think there is relief coming, but your constituents are going to be exposed to some high prices. As sympathetic as I am, I don't know the answer.

I just don't think SPR is going to be able to meet the demand in a timely enough manner by the time you get past another 30 days and some of this production in to your constituents. I don't think that is going to do what the market is doing now, which is bringing more heating oil that is already refined in Europe into the United States. I would much rather work ultimately for a long-term solution to our exposures because you have to look at the reality. We are going to be more and more exposed to the whims of OPEC. We have allowed Saddam Hussein and Iraq to come in with another 2 million barrels a day. That helps us and hurts us when you think about it. Who benefits from that? It is a complex problem. I have a hard time accepting that part of the role of SPR is to meet the domestic price manipulations as opposed to the philosophy that went into SPR, which was its design to be a strategic petroleum reserve in the sense of a time when our supplies may be cut off. There has been a great deal of criticism in my committee of the ability of SPR to be able to produce if a demand is there. There are a lot of shortcomings within SPR's makeup.

Mr. SCHUMER. I thank the Senator.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a

period for the transaction of routine morning business, with each Senator permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, January 31, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,711,285,168,951.46 (Five trillion, seven hundred eleven billion, two hundred eighty-five million, one hundred sixty-eight thousand, nine hundred fifty-one dollars and forty-six cents).

Five years ago, January 31, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,815,827,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred fifteen billion, eight hundred twenty-seven million).

Ten years ago, January 31, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$2,974,584,000,000 (Two trillion, nine hundred seventy-four billion, five hundred eighty-four million).

Fifteen years ago, January 31, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,679,916,000,000 (One trillion, six hundred seventy-nine billion, nine hundred sixteen million).

Twenty-five years ago, January 31, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$494,140,000,000 (Four hundred ninety-four billion, one hundred forty million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,217,145,168,951.46 (Five trillion, two hundred seventeen billion, one hundred forty-five million, one hundred sixty-eight thousand, nine hundred fifty-one dollars and forty-six cents) during the past 25 years.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

##### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a treaty and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON THE U.S. ARCTIC RESEARCH PLAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 80

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to the provisions of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984,

as amended (15 U.S.C. 4108(a)), I transmit herewith the sixth biennial revision (2000-2004) to the United States Arctic Research Plan.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 1, 2000.

#### REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION 99-37 RELATIVE TO THE AIR FORCE'S OPERATING LOCATION NEAR GROOM LAKE, NEVADA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 81

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Consistent with section 6001(a) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) (the "Act"), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6961(a), notification is hereby given that on September 20, 1999, I issued Presidential Determination 99-37 (copy enclosed) and thereby exercised the authority to grant certain exemptions under section 6001(a) of the Act.

Presidential Determination 99-37 exempted the United States Air Force's operating location near Groom Lake, Nevada, from any Federal, State, interstate, or local hazardous or solid waste laws that might require the disclosure of classified information concerning that operating location to unauthorized persons. Information concerning activities at the operating location near Groom Lake has been properly determined to be classified, and its disclosure would be harmful to national security. Continued protection of this information is, therefore, in the paramount interest of the United States.

The determination was not intended to imply that in the absence of a Presidential exemption, RCRA or any other provision of law permits or requires the disclosure of classified information to unauthorized persons. The determination also was not intended to limit the applicability or enforcement of any requirement of law applicable to the Air Force's operating location near Groom Lake except those provisions, if any, that would require the disclosure of classified information.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 31, 2000.

#### REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND LATVIA CONCERNING FISHERIES OFF THE COASTS OF THE U.S.—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 82

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message

from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and Foreign Relations.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), I transmit herewith an Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Latvia extending the Agreement of April 8, 1993, Concerning Fisheries Off the Coasts of the United States, with annex, as extended (the "1993 Agreement"). The present Agreement, which was effected by an exchange of notes at Riga on June 7 and September 27, 1999, extends the 1993 Agreement to December 31, 2002.

In light of the importance of our fisheries relationship with the Republic of Latvia, I urge that the Congress give favorable consideration to this Agreement at an early date.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 31, 2000.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:20 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1733. An act to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to provide for a national standard of interoperability and portability applicable to electronic food stamp benefit transactions.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 244. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2130) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to add gamma hydroxybutyric acid and ketamine to the schedules of controlled substances, to provide for a national awareness campaign, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 221) authorizing printing of the brochures entitled "How Our Laws Are Made" and "Our American Government," the pocket version of the United States Constitution, and the document-sized, annotated version of the United States Constitution."

The message further announced that pursuant to section 702(b) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2000 (50 U.S.C. 401) and the order of the House of Thursday, November 18,

1999, the Speaker on Wednesday, January 12, 2000, appointed the following Member of the House to the National Commission for the Review of the National Reconnaissance Office: Mr. GOSS of Florida; and from private life: Mr. Eli S. Jacobs of New York and Mr. Larry D. Cox of Maryland.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 5(a) of the Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering and Technology Development Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a) and the order of the House of Thursday, November 18, 1999, the Speaker on Monday, January 3, 2000, appointed the following individuals on the part of the House to the Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering and Technology Development to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Mr. Charles E. Vela of Maryland.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 852(b) of Public Law 105-244 (as amendment by Public Law 106-113), the Chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce appointed the following Member to the Web-Based Education Commission: Mr. ISAKSON of Georgia.

At 4:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 245. Concurrent resolution to correct technical errors in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 764.

#### MEASURE REFERRED

The following concurrent resolution was read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 244. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-7071. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "HUD Acquisition Regulation; Miscellaneous Revisions" (RIN2535-AA25) (FR-4291-F-02), received January 24, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7072. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "HUD Acquisition Regulation; Miscellaneous Revisions" (RIN2535-

AA24) (FR-4115-F-03), received January 24, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7073. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requirements for Notification, Evaluation and Reduction of Lead-Based Paint Hazards in Housing Receiving Federal Assistance and Federally Owned Residential Property Being Sold; Corrections" (RIN2501-AB57) (FR-3482-C-07), received January 24, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7074. A communication from the Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, a report relative to a cost comparison being conducted at the Air Force Reserve Personnel Center in Denver, CO; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7075. A communication from the Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, a report relative to a cost comparison conducted at Elmendorf Air Force Base, AK; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7076. A communication from the Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, a report relative to a cost comparison conducted at Westover Air Reserve Base, MA; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7077. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7078. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Olives Grown in California: Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket Number FV00-932-1 IFR), received January 27, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7079. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazelnuts Grown in Oregon and Washington; Establishment of Interim and Final Free and Restricted Percentages for the 1999-2000 Marketing Year" (Docket Number FV00-932-1 IFR), received January 27, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7080. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Onions Grown in South Texas: Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket Number FV00-959-1 FR), received January 27, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7081. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tomatoes Grown in Florida: Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket Number FV99-966-1 FIR), received January 27, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.